(c) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken to declare Pakistan a terrorist State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Commonwealth Secretary-General Mr. Don McKinnon visited India from 15-17 February 2003, as part of consultations with key Commonwealth countries in the run-up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Abuja later this year. The Commonwealth Secretary-General was fully briefed about our concerns regarding Pakistan's continued support to terrorism.

(b) The unanimous decision to suspend Pakistan from the Council of the Commonwealth was taken after the military coup in October 1999, which was in violation of fundamental Commonwealth principles of democracy, good governance and rule of law. In view of the constitutional and other changes introduced in Pakistan before the elections, moving Pakistan towards institutionalised military rule, this decision was maintained by consensus by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group in its meeting in London from 31 October to 1 November 2002. India will continue to strongly articulate its concerns on this issue within the Commonwealth.

(c) The Government has sensitised its key interlocutors that Pakistan has become the epicentre of terrorism. Many countries have expressed concern over Pakistan's failure to live up to its commitments made on 12th January, 27th May and 6th June, 2002, to end cross-border terrorism on a permanent basis and have called upon Pakistan to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism.

Cancellation of visit of Bill Clinton

3012. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former U.S. President Bill Clinton had to cancel his visit to India scheduled for February this year because of the security concerns raised by the U.S. secret service;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the impression, generally prevalent in the western world, about India being a country of serious security risk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was scheduled to make a private visit to India. Government learnt of the cancellation of the visit from media reports.

(c) Government understands that the cancellation of the visit was in the context of general security concerns raised by the United States for its officials and citizens due to the situation relating to Iraq and was not specific to India. A number of high-level U.S. officials have visited India in recent months.

Visa free travel for Indonesians

3013. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit citizens of Indonesia holding diplomatic and official passport to have a visa free travel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar facilities in Indonesia would be allowed to the Indian citizens on a reciprocal basis; and

(d) whether such facilities are also being contemplated in respect of other countries and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) As per the bilateral agreement signed with Indonesia on 3.4.2002, diplomatic and official passport holders of India and Indonesia can enter, transit or stay in each other's territory for a maximum period of 14 days without a visa. The agreement includes diplomatic and official passport holders of one country assigned to its diplomatic missions located